Our Research

Alaska 2012 – 2014

- Fieldwork in Alaska surveyed corals and sponges in the Aleutian Islands, E. Bering Sea canyons and slope, and red tree coral habitats in the Gulf of Alaska
- The research is informing the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's management of groundfishes

Northeast 2012 – 2015

- Coral surveys were conducted in the Gulf of Maine, on seamounts, and in 31 canyons
- The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council used this research as the basis for proposed deep-sea coral protection zones covering over 38,000 sq. miles

West Coast 2010 – 2012

- In partnership with sanctuaries, we surveyed coral and sponge habitats from Washington to Southern California
- The research is informing sanctuary management plans and the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Essential Fish Habitat measures

Southeast, Gulf of Mexico & U.S. Caribbean 2016 – 2019

- Our newest field initiative is working with three fishery management councils and several sanctuaries to better understand the region's rich deep-sea coral habitats.

Southeast 2009 – 2011

- Our inaugural field research initiative used sonar technology, remotely operated vehicles, and manned submersibles to discover, map, and understand deep-sea coral reefs
- Our research helped the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council delineate fishing zones and protected areas

U.S. Pacific Islands 2015 – 2017

- In partnership with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, we are mapping, exploring, and studying deep-sea coral and sponge communities
- Our research supports priority science and management needs of the region's Marine National Monuments

Nationwide Investment

The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the nation's resource for information on deep-sea coral and sponge ecosystems.

We support:

- Three to four-year regional field research initiatives
- Targeted analyses of ecology, genetics, and fisheries interactions
- The National Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Database: https://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov/

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

DSCRTP Regional Field Initiatives

- ***Goal:*** Provide science needed to advance conservation of deep-sea coral & sponge ecosystems
- Research Priorities Workshop
- Cross-LO team
  - 3 to 4-year research plan ~ $700 - $900/yr
  - Developed in consultation with Councils
  - Cross-LO Implementation
- Emphasis on partnerships & leverage
- Standardized data products